

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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SIXPENCE

AT THE TIME of writing, the League of Nations appears to be as usual one of the chief obstacles to European appeasement. On such occasions as the present one would hope that the world of legal fantasy should be kept within its proper bounds, but the Chichele Professor of International Law is in his element when he insists that the issue of the Abyssinian question should be referred to the permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague for an advisory opinion. If ever there was a moment when time was precious, it is the present, and all the lawyers in the world cannot overturn the actual conquest of Abyssinia by Italy. Illegalities beyond number have been converted into law by time, and it is alarming to see how participation in the League can hamper the diplomacy of its members. At present it is the happy hunting ground of Russia, and M. Litvinoff is having the time of his life in trying to stir up in Europe a far vaster conflagration than his friends have lit in Spain. It is consoling to think that, if report is true, he has the support of the Bolivian representative.

THE SPANISH TRAGEDY continues its long drawn-out agony. It seems inconceivable that any humane person could wish the civil war to continue, yet there are people in this country who, professing to regard peace as a pearl beyond price, are concerned to prolong the struggle by measures intended to encourage the Barcelona Government in a hopeless resistance. It seems clear that General Franco holds definitely the upper hand and whatever happens he can never be ousted from the territories he holds. A speedy peace on merciful terms is the best hope for the Spanish nation.

SOUTH AFRICA'S ELECTION will be in full swing by the middle of the ensuing week and the result will be awaited with considerable interest in all parts of the Empire. The issues in this election are not of the kind with which the people of this country or of other Dominions are familiar. They have little or nothing to do with ordinary party politics as we understand them; it is not a question, in fact, whether Conservative, Liberal or Labour programmes shall prevail. The issues that are being fought out between the three parties in the contest—the United Party of Generals Hertzog and Smuts, the “purified” Nationalists under Dr. Malan, and the Dominion Party under Colonel Stallard—are, in effect, Political Fusion of the two white races, British and Dutch, *versus* Racial Sectionalism. Dr. Malan has little use for the Empire; he appears to be hankering after an Afrikaner Republic. Colonel Stallard and his henchmen distrust Generals Hertzog and Smuts; they seem to be aiming at a vigorous re-assertion of British dominance in Africa. On the whole a con-

tinuance of the United Party in power seems to offer the best hope not only of racial peace in South Africa, but of prosperous development for the whole Union. And if it is safe to depend on the gratitude of electors, the United Party have at least much to show in the way of solid achievement in their past five year record of Hertzog-Smuts Government.

THE INDIAN CONGRESS Party has scored a distinct success over the matter of Mr. Dain's appointment as acting Governor of Orissa. The present Governor, Sir John Hubback, had been intending to proceed on leave home during the present summer, and authority, strangely unmindful of Congress's “constitutional” susceptibilities, had proceeded to select an Orissa Indian Civilian, Mr. Dain, to fill the temporary vacancy. There was nothing to be said against the choice, on personal grounds or from the strictly administrative point of view of gubernatorial efficiency—even by Congress politicians. But Congress professed to be aghast at this constitutional “anomaly” of appointing an official, who had hitherto been subordinate to the Ministry in office, over the heads, as it were, of his political superiors. There were threats of resignation and another crisis and Simla and Whitehall were much perturbed. Sir John Hubback got them out of an awkward predicament by cancelling his own leave. And in announcing this fact in the Commons this week, Lord Stanley took occasion to say that the objections which Congress had advanced to Mr. Dain's appointment “would not be lost sight of in making future appointments.” One is glad to note, nowever, that he also added that “this did not imply any change in the Government's view as to the suitability of members of the I.C.S. for Governorships, whether temporary or otherwise.” That is a reservation that can hardly be said to be irrelevant in the present circumstances of India.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS that is now said to be “developing” in another part of India which is also politically dominated by Congress at the moment—the Central Provinces—affords significant indication that if Congress politicians are particularly sensitive about their own constitutional rights, they are by no means equally sensitive about the rights of others. The Ministry has instituted an inquiry into the conduct of officials in the Bilaspur district during an election contest. The allegations are that these officials abused their authority and power on this occasion. The District Magistrate of Bilaspur, acting on the presumption that these Government servants had the right to be defended, took upon himself to engage counsel on their behalf. This action of his has been repudiated by the Ministry, which has cancelled the appointments of counsel he has made

and recommended their own nominees for the defence. Not unnaturally the services of these nominees have been firmly declined by the accused. Since the Ministry has instituted this inquiry, why, they ask, should they place their defence in the hands of counsel chosen by their accusers? They demand the right to choose their own counsel for themselves and express themselves perfectly satisfied with the original appointments made on their behalf. One is not surprised to learn from a cable in the *Times* that the Central Provinces' branch of the Indian Police Association is "reported to have sent a Memorial to the Governor protesting against the Ministry's intervention and asking him to take action under the Government of India Act to safeguard the legitimate rights of the Services." It certainly appears to be a case for invoking that Act's "safeguards."

THAT THE WOOLSACK should be filled, not with wool—once the foundation of England's wealth—but with horse-hair is, as Sir Dalziel Kelly, Chairman of the Australian Wool-growers' Association, remarked at a recent luncheon in London, "a terrible thing." One knows, of course, that there was once a suggestion made that this historic relic should be filled with coals. But who was responsible for the horse-hair outrage and at what period of renovation was this horse-hair first introduced? Perhaps we shall never know who delivered this hideous blow to our cherished traditions. Enough that Sir Dalziel has discovered the fraud and now intends that the so-called Woolsack shall be a genuine one filled with the very best of Empire wool as a sign and symbol of how this commodity has once again established itself as a flourishing source of wealth in the King's dominions.

THE DECLINE IN THE number of homeless persons checked as wandering in the streets of London is a sign of dawning civilisation and increasing sympathy. On February 11, 1938, the census of homeless persons showed that 53 persons were sleeping out and there was no need for any of these men and women to be without shelter. There were that night 10,027 persons in common lodging-houses, 705 in casual wards and 1,236 in hostels, labour homes and shelters. There has been a great change for the better since the end of the last century when the *Morning Post* Embankment Home was founded and the railway arches, the embankment seats and the like were the only refuge for the flotsam and jetsam of humanity. Anyone who has watched the work of the Homeless Poor Night Office established by the Metropolitan Asylums Board and carried on by the L.C.C., knows with what understanding and true charity assistance is given to those who are down and out, while refuge is provided for those temporarily stranded with every encouragement to find work.

ALL WHO ARE KEEN on "National Fitness," should be interested in the special matinée, to be given at the Scala Theatre on 21st May, in demonstration of the educational value of the Greek Dance (Ruby Ginner Method), for it

represents a return to those ideals of mental and physical sanity, through co-ordination, which marked the golden age of ancient Greece. Contributors to an interesting programme will include elementary school children, public school girls and students from leading dance schools.

THE PICTURES by Mr. Cyril Ross now showing at the Cooling Galleries, Bond-street, have a documentary or propaganda interest rather than one purely aesthetic. They state directly and very frankly in terms of paint the problem of the Jews. Technically, Mr. Ross is not without ability. He is primarily a successful business man who has never studied drawing, and who painted his first picture "For I will fear no evil," perhaps the best in the exhibition, about two years ago. By complete sincerity and notable patience he contrives to convey to his canvas the ideas which he has so greatly at heart.

"TOMORROW," by Prince Hohenlowe, at the Fine Art Society, New Bond-street, is great fun and should not be missed. It is really a joyous if decadent adventure in fancy framing and has to be seen to be believed.

At the Redfern Gallery, Oravida is seen at her best with pictures of cats. "Tiger and Blackbuck" is a notable example of her special gift for blending naturalism and decoration in the mural manner of her later style.

IN A STAR COMES HOME (Arts Theatre Club) Mr. Reginald Long makes the most of all the opportunities for comedy which family life in a model suburb can provide and tactfully avoids the dangers of sentimentality. The return of the prodigal is a familiar theme, but to it Mr. Long brings a witty pen and the gift of making his characters live. The father (Mr. Frank Pettingell) the film star daughter (Miss Joan Wyndham) and the family help (Miss Irene Handl) are convincingly drawn and admirably represented and among briefer parts that of the B.B.C. Commentator (Mr. Nicholas Phipps) deserves special mention. In short, good writing and excellent teamwork combine to provide an entertaining and finished performance.

MR. OLLIVANT'S NOVEL, "Owd Bob," shows no signs of losing any of its old popularity, and the screen version of it, which is at the Gaumont, keeps pretty faithfully to the original. Here are Owd Bob and Black Wull, the sheep dog trials and the unmasking of Black Wull as the villain of the piece. All these open air sequences are excellently photographed, and come as a pleasant relief after the many films that are studio made. These scenes are laid on the fells where McAdam, played by Will Fyffe with a round, rich Scottish accent, puts the fear of the devil into his fellow farmers. The newcomer, David Moore, played by John Loder is, however, not only not afraid of him, but has the temerity to fall in love with his daughter. The village background with half-a-dozen excellent types, is well realised; and this film succeeds by its simplicity.

Leading Articles

DUCE AND FÜHRER

"**L**y a toujours l'un qui baise et l'autre qui tourne la joue." This French proverb is rather devastating when applied to matrimonial relations, but certainly in international affairs there is a tendency for a slight difference in attitude to be apparent between any two Powers that exchange the kiss of friendship. The one bestows the kiss, the other turns a more or less responsive cheek. Mussolini and Hitler are unquestionably great men; quite how great only history will decide. There is little doubt that *mutatis mutandis* most patriotic Englishmen would be Fascists or Nazis, if their country had passed through similar troubles. It is interesting to compare the respective achievements of the two dictators. It is fair to say that the Duce had a more difficult task than the Führer. New Italy with its bad imitation of democracy did not provide him with the foundation on which Hitler built. Germany had counted as a great Power since 1870 and before, and its set-back in the War could only be temporary. It was bound to become once again a menace to European peace as soon as it re-armed and as soon as our lovers of peace insisted on its re-armament, it regained its former influence with the additional advantage of being directed by a genius at the international game of poker. Mussolini had to build up the prestige of his country on a basis which seemed to have sunk into the morass of despond and defeat with the collapse of the Roman Empire, for until the days of Fascism Italy was only a great Power by courtesy.

The extent of the Duce's achievement is demonstrated by the speeches exchanged between the two Leaders at the State banquet in the Palazzo Venezia. It was Italy which turned its cheek with a shade of condescension to the kiss of Germany. Mussolini talked friendship and peace very much as all Rulers of States talk peace and friendship when they are conferring with other nations, and he did not rub in too much the ancient Roman tradition. Yet there was a reference to the glories of the past in the most definite part of his speech when he spoke of guarantees of justice, security and peace as being conditioned by the political equilibrium corresponding "to the reality of the historical sources which constitute and determine it." The phrase is cryptic. "The reality of the historical sources" certainly does not imply acceptance of the curious Nordic Gospel, created by a Frenchman Gobineau and an Englishman Houston Chamberlain, that the Northern nations in general and the Germans in particular are God's chosen people, with their fair hair and long skulls which unfortunately are not so long when compared with the inferior Alpine and Mediterranean folk, dark-haired and round or square-headed. Presumably the Duce was referring to Czechoslovakia, but it is hard to believe that "the reality of the historical sources" will be much more helpful in solving the problem of the Sudeten Germans than it would be in turning the German-speaking inhabitants of the Tyrol into Italians.

Hitler, on the other hand, was less cryptic and wary. In a sentence he solved the Tyrolese problem. "It is my irrevocable will and my bequest to the German people that the frontier of the Alps, which Nature has erected between us, shall be regarded for ever as unchangeable." It is interesting and pathetic to notice how great men will insist on pledging their word and will against invincible Time which levels all. If Nature erected the Alps as a frontier between Germany and Italy, she must surely also have set the Rhine as a frontier between Germany and France. What will the Führer's "irrevocable will and bequest" be worth fifty years hence? They will be forgotten with all the dead promises and good intentions which go to pave the streets of Hell.

Meantime Europe can take heart of grace, not so much because the Führer and the Duce are friends so long as friendship suits them—and that is the most to be hoped for from international friendships—but because this country has a further respite for its re-armament. But for those who cried peace, peace, when there was no peace, and who robbed us of our defence, the trouble in Europe would not exist to-day. Great Britain armed at every point would stand as the champion of peace, for those who ensue peace in an imperfect world must be prepared to fight for it or else to die unresisting as the grass. Either of these alternatives is possible, but having it both ways is impossible and an insult to the scheme of creation. Certain defenceless animals defy destruction by the rapidity of their propagation; others, "red in tooth and claw," preserve existence with the weapons Nature has given them. We are not so constructed that the birth-rate will compensate for a defenceless condition, any more than the lion or tiger, and we looked in the face the fate that awaits the clawless, toothless carnivora. As it is, we are striving desperately to make up for lost time. How much has been wasted in our efforts to improvise an air force which should have grown up gradually is beyond calculation. It is said that soil neglected for a year requires three years' cultivation to bring it back. In the organisation of an air force which has no real tradition to work upon, each wasted year may well represent sevenfold expense.

We can only be thankful that a merciful Providence has given us the possibility of muddling through. Our Socialists, encouraged by some by-election successes, suggest that they would sweep the country, if only they could have a general election to-morrow. They forget that in such a case the only policy they could put forward is one of war, and they might find it a little difficult to answer if they were asked what they had done to prepare this country against that danger. If Germany has re-armed, Italy has menaced our Mediterranean communications, and Great Britain is re-arming as nations only re-arm when the menace of war is imminent, theirs is principally the blame.

Mr. Winston Churchill's eloquence will hardly persuade the country that salvation is to be found in a new League of Nations. He himself must have had an inward smile when he said: "How improvidently foolish we should be, when dangers were so great, to put needless barriers in the way

of the general association of the great Russian mass with the resistance to an act of Nazi aggression?" What is "the great Russian mass"? Presumably Stalin, and how he differs from the dictators Mr. Churchill dislikes so cordially is a matter for casuists. The weakness of coalitions is a commonplace the truth of which was demonstrated again both in the War and the Treaty that ended it. What would happen to "ten well-armed States in Europe, banded together to resist an aggression and banded together to attack the aggressor" can easily be imagined. No aggressor could hope for a better opportunity than would be given him by the arguments and hesitations that would keep the rulers of the ten well-armed States fully occupied while they were trying to find the answer to the riddle, "When is an aggression not an aggression?" The League of Nations is trying to find an answer to that conundrum at the present moment and *Œdipus* has not yet appeared.

REDBREAST

A PATCH of well-mown lawn, several flower-beds and a large and tangled mass of dank and grimy laurels, these were the kingdom of the robin whose whole life had been spent in the garden. They were his not only by birthright but by conquest, for many and fierce had been the battles he had had to fight to retain his territory. The loss of his right eye testified to the severity of these encounters, but so far, battered and wounded though he had been he still retained his right to be the only robin in that particular garden and his heritage could only be taken from him by some doughtier warrior than himself.

It was spring and the trees had assumed their green summer garb. The snowdrops had come and gone and in the distant woods the bluebells were bowing to the breeze. In the laurels where the cover was thick, two blackbirds and a fat, speckled thrush sat tight upon their clutches of eggs and viewed every movement of the leaves with bright-eyed terror, while in the solitary apple tree a chaffinch brooded in a nest which was so woven with lichen as to be practically invisible against the grey bark. But the robin and his mate were not here, for the redbreasts are notorious for choosing queer places in which to rear their young.

Someone had flung an old kettle on to the roof of the potting shed. It was rusty and cracked, but to the robins it seemed an ideal nursery. Here, then, they made their nest of dried grasses and soft downy feathers and here the little hen sat upon her six white, red-spotted eggs, while her lord and master mounted guard upon the roof or foraged for worms in the moist earth.

Five chicks were hatched out of those six eggs, five blind featherless little mites which were absolutely helpless and dependent upon their parents. And a very great strain the old robins found it, for, fragile though their children appeared, their appetites were prodigious and every time one of the old birds alighted at the nest, five little heads shot up on scraggy necks and five beaks opened to display cavernous crimson throats. The worm or insect would be dropped down one throat and instantly they all collapsed to lie still until the

next juicy morsel arrived. The old birds were on the go from dawn to dusk for their children could never be satisfied.

The days went by and the babies grew; their scanty down gave way to feathers and their eyes opened to view the world from their kettle nursery. And now, if anything, the old birds laboured more heavily than before. But they did not seem to mind and even found time to sing a snatch of song between their foraging expeditions. The young robins were fat and solemn and as yet had no red waistcoats. Little did they know that the most perilous part of their lives was soon to come.

Their wing feathers developed and they began to grow restless, jostling and pushing each other in the confined space inside the kettle. Indeed, once or twice one of the bolder spirits ventured out upon the tiles. But one morning the warm sun tempted them all out on the roof. They sat there in a row like solemn little images as their parents flew to and fro with food. That night they did not sleep in the kettle but roosted in the laurels to which their weak, undeveloped wings had just managed to bear them, and from then on their excitements were many indeed. There is nothing quite so helpless as a very young bird and all the prowlers of the wild look out for them, for they know what an easy meal they are.

The cat got one on the following morning whilst the parents were away. For some time after this only one old bird went away at a time. The other remained on guard to see that the foolish children did not venture down from the safety of the higher branches of the laurels, for the cat was always on the prowl.

It so happened that the little family were lucky. Some of the young blackbirds and thrushes were killed, but the robins escaped. That is because their parents were not only watchful but completely fearless in defence of their young. Many a scuffle did they have with real or fancied menaces to their children.

It happened one day that father robin was on guard. One of the children, bolder than the rest had fluttered to the ground and was squatting in the shade. Suddenly a gust of wind blew back the leaves and father robin saw two evil eyes gleaming in the shadows. It was a rat, a killer who asked for nothing better than a young and tender robin. The rat ran forward and as he did so the old redbreasted warrior flew into action.

Straight at that rat he flew, his tiny beak directed unerringly at its eye. His courage was superb; but I am afraid it would have been unavailing, for the rat was hungry, but even as robin and rat met there came a strange interruption.

The robin was knocked sideways as a big black body leaped through the leaves. He was unhurt and dashed for the safety of a bough and as he flew he saw that his erring child was already there. Safe at last he looked down and saw his late enemy squirming in the claws of the cat.

An hour later five young robins and two old ones sat motionless on a lofty twig. A black cat yawned contentedly and in the laurels lay the skin of a big brown rat.

DAN RUSSELL.

The Inner Man

MORE STAR CHAMBER DINNERS

WE publish to-day a third instalment of the accounts submitted for the dinners served to the Lords of the Star Chamber at the Sovereign's expense. Drawn from the contemporary MSS. covering the period from the reign of Henry VIII to that of Charles I, this first-hand evidence of the way our forefathers ate and the cost of their food is of interest to all concerned with the Art of Good Living.

21. Monday, the 15th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. Beer 5d. . . . 3s. 11d.
Item a surloin beef 18d. A rump beef 8d. A neck mutton 4d. 6 marrowbones 12d. A crane 4s. 4d. A goose 8d. 4 capons 7s. 8d. 12 chickens 18d. 6 coney 18d. 5 cocks 20d. 3 partridges 21d. A pheasant 20d. 5 teal 13d. 3 doz. larks 18d. A loin veal 6d. Spices 4s. Butter 12d. Salt and sauce 8d. Herbs 3d. Boathire 13d. Apples 8d. ——— 20d. Trenchers 14d. Cups 5d. Flour 12d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. 40s. 6½d.

22. Tuesday, the 16th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. Beer 6d. . . . 4s.
Item a surloin beef 18d. 2 loins mutton 13d. Pottage flesh 4d. A neck mutton 4d. A breast veal 7d. 6 marrowbones 12d. A swan 5s. A goose 8d. 4 capons 8s. 6 coney 18d. 6 woodcocks 2s. 3 partridges 20d. 4 curlews 4s. A pheasant 20d. 8 plovers 2s. Flour 8d. Butter 12d. Spices 4s. Herbs 3d. Boathire 13d. Apples 10d. Oranges 4d. Salt and sauce 8d. Trenchers 14d. Cups 5d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. 43s. ½d.
Sum 4l. 11s. 6d.

23. Wednesday, the 17th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. Beer 9d. . . . 4s. 3d.
Item a surloin of beef 16d. 2 loins mutton 13d. A double rump beef 8d. 6 marrowbones 12d. A neck mutton 3d. A loin veal 8d. A crane 4s. A goose 8d. 4 capons 8s. 6 coney 18d. 6 woodcocks 2s. 3 partridges 20d. 6 plovers 15d. 4 curlews 4s. 3 doz. larks 18d. Butter 12d. Half a hundred eggs 8½d. Quinces 8d. Spices 5s. Boathire 13d. Apples and wardens 8d. Oranges 3d. Herbs 3d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Trenchers 14d. Cups 5d. . . . 42s. 1d.

24. Thursday, the 18th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. Beer 9d. . . . 4s. 3d.
Item a surloin of beef 16d. Pottage flesh 4d. 4 mallards 16d. 12 pigeons 10d. A neck mutton 4d. 2 loins mutton 14d. 6 marrowbones 12d. A pestell pork 6d. 3 breasts veal 21d. 3 capons 6s. 6 coney 18d. 12 plovers 2s. 6d. 11 cocks 3s. 8d. 3 doz. larks 18d. Half a hundred eggs 8½d. Flour 12d. Butter 8d. Spices 5s. Salt and sauce 8d. Herbs 3d. Trenchers 14d. Cups 5d. Apples 12d. Oranges 3d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Rushes 9d. 2 curlews 2s. 4d. . . . 39s. 3d.
Sum 4l. 9s. 10d.

25. Friday, the 19th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. Beer 9d. . . . 4s. 3d.
Item a ling 14d. A cod 20d. Baconherring 8d. 2 pikes 6s. 4d. A turbot 6s. 14 whittings 10d. 3 gurnards 5s. 2 breams 16d. A fresh salmon 10s. Lampreys for stew 8d. Lampreys to roast 12d. 2 eels 2s. 4d. Quinces 8d. Spices 4s. 6d. Flour 8d. Butter 12d. Herbs 4d. Salt and sauce 8d. Boathire 13d. Oranges 3d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Apples 12d. Trenchers 14d. Cups 5d. . . . 50s. ½d.

26. Saturday, the 20th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. Beer 9d. . . . 4s. 3d.
Item a ling 14d. A cod 20d. Lampreys for stew 12d. 2

eels 2s. 2 pikes 6s. 8d. A porpouse 6s. 8d. 14 whiting 10d. 3 gurnards 5s. 3 breams 2s. Crude 6d. Baconherring 6d. Flour 8d. Spices 4s. Butter 12d. Salt and sauce 8d. Half a hundred eggs 9d. Boathire 13d. Apples and wardens 10d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Trenchers 14d. Cups 5d. Herbs 4d. Oranges 4d. Washing 12d. . . 41s. 6½d.
Sum 100s. 1d.

27. Monday, the 22nd day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Ale 2s. Beer 9d. . . . 4s. 3d.
Item a surloin of beef 16d. Pottage flesh 3d. Neck of mutton 4d. A leg veal 6d. 2 loins mutton 12d. A loin veal 8d. 4 capons 8s. A crane 4s. A goose 8d. 4 coney 12d. 7 teal 17½d. 10 cocks 3s. 4d. 3 partridges 31d. 6 snipes 10d. 6 redshanks 10d. 3 doz. larks 18d. Flour 8d. Herbs 4d. Butter 12d. Spices 4s. Salt and sauce 8d. Half a hundred eggs 10d. Oranges 4d. Apples and wardens 10d. Boathire 13d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Trenchers 14d. Cups 5d. 6 marrowbones 12d. . 41s. 11d.

28. Tuesday, the 23rd day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. Beer 7d. . . . 4s. 1d.
Item a surloin of beef 16d. A loin pork 10d. Pottage flesh 3d. A neck mutton 4d. 6 marrowbones 12d. A breast veal 7d. 4 capons 8s. A crane 4s. A goose 8d. 6 coney 18d. A pheasant 20d. 3 partridges 21d. 7 teal 17½d. 6 cocks 2s. 10 snipes 18d. 3 doz. larks 18d. Flour 8d. Herbs 4d. Butter 12d. Spices 4s. Salt and sauce 8d. Half a hundred eggs 9d. Oranges 3d. Apples 12d. Boathire 13d. Trenchers 14d. Cups 5d. Cream 2s. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. . . . 43s.
Sum 4l. 13s. 3d.

29. Wednesday, the 24th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item for ale 2s. Beer 6d. . . . 4s.
Item a surloin of beef 16d. A double rump beef 8d. A leg veal 6d. A loin veal 8d. 6 marrowbones 12d. 2 loins mutton 12d. A swan 5s. A goose 8d. 4 capons 8s. 4 coney 12d. 4 curlews 4s. 5 partridges 2s. 6d. A cock 4d. 9 plovers 23½d. 3 doz. larks 18d. Spices 4s. A round brawn 2s. 8d. A neck mutton 3d. Flour 8d. Butter 12d. Herbs 3d. Salt and sauce 8d. Oranges 3d. Apples (and) wardens 9d. Trenchers 14d. Cups 5d. A lb. suet 2½d. Boathire 13d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. . . . 44s. 8½d.

30. Thursday the 25th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. Beer 9d. . . . 4s. 3d.
Item a sirloin beef 18d. 2 loins mutton 13d. Pottage flesh 3d. A rump of beef 8d. A loin pork 10d. 8 marrowbones 16d. A neck mutton 3d. A breast veal 8d. 9 stock doves 18d. 3 capons 6s. A crane 4s. A goose 8d. 6 coney 18d. 12 plovers 2s. 6d. 6 partridges 3s. 6d. 10 cocks 3s. 4d. 16 snipes 2s. 1d. 3 doz. larks 18d. Crude 7d. Flour 8d. Butter 12d. Spices 4s. Half a hundred eggs 9d. Apples (and) wardens 8d. Oranges 4d. Salt and sauce 8d. Boathire 13d. Brown 2s. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. . . 47s. 3d.
Sum 100s. 2½d.

31. Friday, the 26th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. Beer 9d. . . . 4s. 3d.
Item a ling 12d. A cod 16d. Oysters 4d. Baconherring 6d. Lampreys for stew 8d. Lampreys to roast 15d. 2 roasting eels 21d. Flounders 6d. 2 pikes 5s. 8d. 3 gurnards 4s. 6d. 14 whittings 10d. 3 haddocks 18d. A side salmon and the chine 6s. A conger 6s. 8d. Quinces 10d. Flour 8d. Butter 12d. Spices 4s. 6d. Oranges 6d. Wardens (and) apples 10d. Salt and sauce 8d. Trenchers 14d. Cups 5d. Herbs 4d. Red wine 8d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. . . . 45s. 4½d.

32. Saturday, the 27th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. Beer 9d. . . . 4s. 3d.
Item a ling 12d. A fresh cod 18d. Lampreys for stew 10d. 2 roasting eels 2s. Lampreys to roast 12d. Flounders 8d. 3 gurnards 4s. 6d. 14 whittings 10d. A side salmon 4s. 6d. Half a conger 4s. Herring 6d. Quinces 12d. Spices 4s. 6d. Flour 8d. Butter 12d. Oranges 3d. Salt and sauce 8d. Trenchers 14d. Cups 5d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Herbs 3d. Red wine 4d. Claret wine 8d. Washing of napery 12d. 2 pikes 6s. . . . 40s. 6½d.
Sum 4l. 14s. 5d.

Books of The Day

PRE-WAR DIPLOMACY

THE completion of a great work of historical importance is marked by the publication of Volume 10, Part 2, of the "British Documents on the Origins of the War, 1898-1914" (H.M. Stationery Office, 20s.). With this new volume the fourteen years' labours of Dr. G. P. Gooch and Professor Harold Temperley have been brought to an end, for though there is to be yet one more volume, that is to be in the hands of Professor Lillian Penson and is to contain a general index, chronological tables and a few addenda. In a note as to the methods they have followed, the two editors tell us that they "took the view that British documents ought to be presented in a British way, which did not necessarily coincide with the most scientific approach," their object being "to show that men were at work."

This human touch gives a special interest and value to their zealous delving into the vast mass of material in the Foreign Office archives: we are enabled to see "men at work" in a variety of different, but revealing ways, such as notes on conversations, minutes on despatches received and even private letters between subordinate officials working on different sides of a negotiation to clarify a complex situation. Not the least interesting example of this personal feature is King George V's letter to Sir Edward Grey on December 8, 1912—published in Trevelyan's "Life of Grey"—but reproduced here in facsimile as a frontispiece—reporting a conversation with Prince Henry of Prussia. The latter had asked the King "point blank, whether, in the event of Germany and Austria going to war with Russia and France, England would come to the assistance of the two latter Powers." To this the King replied "Undoubtedly yes under certain circumstances." Prince Henry professed "surprise and regret, but did not ask what the certain circumstances were. He said he would tell the Emperor what I had told him." King George added the comment on this interview: "Of course, Germany must know that we would not allow either of our friends to be crippled." And yet, in spite of this plain-speaking by King George, Germany was to express almost hurt surprise at our intervention in the war (when it came) on the side of France, Belgium and Russia.

This new volume is mainly concerned with the last two years of Peace and with filling in the background of the pre-war diplomatic scene as set out in the papers covering the immediate origins of the war that were published some twelve years ago. That pre-war scene was still coloured by the fears and uncertainties arising out of the Agadir crisis of 1911. The efforts of British diplomacy were being directed in the first place towards reaching an agreement with Germany over a "naval holiday" and carrying through to a satisfactory conclusion a series of long and complicated negotiations regarding the Bagdad Railway and the Portuguese colonies. Then, secondly, there was the question of improving our relations with

Russia. Those relations, as Sir George Buchanan wrote in March, 1914, were to all outward appearance excellent, but "the foundation on which our understanding rests is so fragile and there are so many questions which may at any moment cause friction between us that I sometimes take a rather despondent view of the future." The German Foreign Office was already pre-occupied with the possibility of a break-up of the Austrian Empire should Francis Joseph die, and there was more than a hint that Germany was willing to contemplate a sharing of the spoils with Russia, on condition, of course, that the latter left the Triple Entente. Thus the French as well as those in charge of our own foreign policy were perturbed by the thought, as expressed by Sir Arthur Nicolson in a letter to Sir Maurice de Bunsen, that "if we do not try to tighten up ties with Russia, she may become weary of us and throw us overboard." It was left to the King to bring about the "tightening" of those ties through a private letter he addressed to the Tsar Nicholas. Italy was another Power whose attitude gave rise to more than a little perplexity in the diplomatic world; she was evidently conscious of the coming storm, and in her anxiety to safeguard herself and her interests she was endeavouring, as Sir Eyre Crowe caustically put it, to "square the circle": "remain in the Triple Alliance and yet not go to war with France in accordance with its stipulations."

Finally, there was the question of our precise obligations to France owing to the removal of the French Fleet to the Mediterranean and our own naval concentration in the North Sea. These changes led to much discussion between the representatives of France and England and also to a special Imperial Defence conference at Malta, attended by the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, the First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Kitchener and all the Government's chief military and naval advisers. One of the grave problems debated was how far our retirement from the Mediterranean might result in throwing Italy firmly back into the arms of Germany. In a memorandum he had prepared for the Conference, Sir Eyre Crowe expressed his conviction that this would certainly be the result, and Lord Rennell, our Ambassador at Rome, supported this view in a despatch written in July, 1912. "Germany and Austria," he said, "are as cordially disliked as they always have been by the mass of the people, but the fear of them will remain for Italians the beginning of wisdom unless some counter-balancing weight is maintained in the opposing scale." Perhaps those words are not without their significance even to-day—despite Rome's enthusiastic reception of Herr Hitler.

IMPERIAL MIGRATION PROBLEM

A very useful and informative book on the subject of Empire migration is "Empire Opportunities: A Survey of the Possibilities of Overseas Settlement" (contributed by Dominions and other experts, Blackie & Son, 7s. 6d.). It may be that the conclusions its various sections suggest are somewhat pessimistic, leaving one with the general impression that the "opportunities"

promised by the title are somewhat meagre. But the value of the book lies in the fact that all the difficulties and intricacies of the Empire's migration problem are frankly and plainly stated. It is no use burking those difficulties or ignoring the Dominion standpoints so clearly presented in this book; their proper understanding is a necessary preliminary to the formulation of any schemes designed adequately to people and develop the Empire's popularly called "Empty Spaces." And, of course, it has to be remembered that no scheme, however promising, has a chance of success unless it has the whole-hearted support of the Dominions concerned. Mr. T. C. Macnaghten, who was Vice-Chairman of the Oversea Settlement Committee from its establishment after the Armistice until 1929, contributes the introductory section of the book and gives us briefly but adequately the history of State-aided migration and all the developments connected with it, such as the passing of the Empire Settlement Act of 1922 (extended in 1937) and the schemes that Act has produced and the setting up of a new Settlement Board in 1936. He notes the fact that there are no signs as yet of an Empire migration on anything like the old pre-Depression scale, and proceeds to stress how profoundly the migration situation has changed since 1922. In the first place, since 1928 the rate of natural increase in our own population returns has shown a marked tendency to fall; in the next place British agriculture is likely to need all the workers it can get and for such land as the Dominions may have available the Home supply of recruits is certain to be extremely small; then there is the "pull" of our own social services, which act as an increasing deterrent to overseas migration; finally, "in most of the Dominions immigration has become a burning political question."

He doubts whether there is to-day a strong case for State-aided emigration. He would much prefer to let emigration take its own course. "If it were known that His Majesty's Government would only resume State aid to emigrants if and when the Dominions pressed for it, and offered to join in financing it, the result should be to free the problem once and for all from suspicion of being a camouflaged method of dealing with our own employment difficulties, to make British emigrants wholly welcome instead of somewhat suspect and consequently to stimulate and encourage emigration." Rather a counsel of despair this, some may think who are disposed to wonder why no attempt has ever yet been made to create that Imperial Development Board which an Empire Royal Commission recommended many moons ago.

AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ROYAL MARRIAGE

Miss Violet Biddulph has written a delightful book round the stories of an eighteenth century Royal Duchess and her three daughters by a former marriage ("The Three Ladies Waldegrave and Their Mother," Peter Davies, illustrated, 15s.). Sir Joshua Reynolds has immortalised these daughters by his famous picture of them. As for the Duchess Maria, their mother, her life was well worth writing up because of its own intrinsic

interest. She was the niece of Horace Walpole, being the daughter of his brother Sir Edward. Her mother had been an extremely beautiful girl of rather humble parentage, who had worked for a time as an assistant in a second-hand clothes shop in Pall Mall. Maria was only twenty-eight when her first husband, the second Earl Waldegrave, died, and it was not long after that she first caught the attention of George III's brother, the Duke of Gloucester. They were secretly married in 1766, and when six years later the Duke broke the news of his marriage to the King, the latter was not unnaturally scandalised. Later George III was to relent and make provision for the two surviving children of the marriage which a commission had declared perfectly valid.

If, however, George III was willing to do something for his brother's children, he made it clear that he had no intention of placing the Duchess "in a situation to answer her extreme pride and vanity." The journals of the day made fun of her lowly birth on the maternal side and hinted at relationships with such-and-such lady's footman. The future George IV's wife spoke of her as the daughter of "literally a common washer-woman." Yet Maria held her head high and was not to be downed. She might be vain, but she knew how to look after herself. She became what Miss Biddulph calls "a decorous old lady" in the end, possibly partly as the result of her friendship with the religious "blue-stocking" Hannah More. But that there was a racy, coarse strain about her in middle life is evident from one letter that Miss Biddulph quotes. This letter was written by the

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MACMILLAN

Duchess' daughter Horatia to a sister and runs: "Before the servants were out of the room the Dss began telling such long and indecent stories. . . . I could have cried with vexation, as nothing stop'd her, from that moment till she went to bed." There was a time, too—in 1787—when the Duke found her exceedingly trying and, as he told the King, had to impress upon her his intention of leaving her unless "she behaved more respectfully to me before the world."

The Duchess naturally is the prime character in Miss Biddulph's book, but we are also told all that Miss Biddulph's painstaking researches have been able to discover about the daughters. It is an easy and fascinating book to read, and it has its value, too, as affording us an illuminating picture of the Royal and social scene in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

A ROUMANIAN JOURNEY

There are various kinds of travel books, but the majority of them, it is to be feared, leave their readers very unsatisfied, and wondering perhaps why they were considered worth writing and publishing. Mr. Sacheverell Sitwell's book on his one month visit to Roumania is of another order ("Roumanian Journey," illustrated from photographs by A. Costa, Richard Wyndham and others, Batsford, 8s. 6d.). It is not that he can claim anything but a superficial knowledge of the country's history and traditions. And in the ordinary way a visit of a month is hardly long enough to acquire a close acquaintance with a

country of well over a hundred square miles. But the artist in Mr. Sitwell enables him, even after a fleeting vision of scenes and places, to record impressions that give us something of the genuine "atmosphere" of the country he is visiting. It may be that aesthetics play a conspicuous part in his chronicle, but his book is none the worse for that. He can make his readers feel the colour and the beauties of all he sees, in the continuous series of sensitively-executed pen-pictures he paints. For they are pictures with the breath of life in them. Nor is it only picture-painting. Mr. Sitwell bears witness to the general contentment of the people among whom he has moved and incidentally pays a high tribute to the personality and culture of King Carol. The attractiveness of his book is further enhanced by the beautiful photographs with which it is copiously illustrated.

BOY SCOUTS' BOOK

The Boy Scouts' Association is appealing for funds and, in the enterprising manner of the whole movement, has not merely waited for funds to roll in but has begun taking action itself to fill the exchequer. This is in the form of a large-size, magnificently illustrated book called "B.P.'s Family in Picture and Story: My Record Book" (Boy Scouts Association in conjunction with Evan Brothers Ltd., 2s. 6d.). The Editor is Mr. Frank Carey. The book contains two coloured portraits of the King and Lord Baden-Powell, with a message from His Majesty: "I hope that this book will always remind you, and all Scouts, to keep the Scout promise." Another coloured picture is of the heroic conduct in battle of the young sailor, John Travers Cornwall, V.C. There is also a coloured page devoted to Scout Decorations and Ranks. On the inside of the cover are spaces marked out for pasting in the owner-scout's photograph and for writing in his name, his troop and his rank and for recording the date of receipt of his badge. There are blank pages, too, for patrol or troop signatures and for photographs. Then follows the Scouts' Roll of Honour. The photographic illustrations cover every feature of Scout life and activity, and the reading-matter consists, first, of Lord Baden-Powell's account (reproduced from the *Listener*) of how the Scout movement started, and then of articles on "One Good Turn a Day," Gilwell Park, the "Department of Handicapped Scouts," Roland House, Sea Scouting, Physical Training, Camps and Camping Grounds, Travel, the Story of the *Gang Show*, World Jamborees and Air Scout Patrols. Those who buy the book will be doing their own good turn to a movement which has been responsible for so many good turns to humanity at large and the youth of the whole world. And it is a book that every Scout is bound to prize and to cherish. So the demand for the book should be what it ought to be—prodigious.

COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL RECORD

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"**DEATH FUNGUS**"

Constable

the mysteries of stocks and shares can hardly, one imagines, afford to do without the comprehensive financial record which Messrs. Fredc. C. Mathieson & Sons, of 16, Copthall-avenue, E.C.2, compile and publish under the title of "Stock Exchanges, London and Provincial, Ten-Year Record of Prices and Dividends" (20s.). The new issue covers the period 1928 to 1937 inclusive. A feature of the book and one which is especially valuable to "sur-tax" payers and those who are entitled to income-tax relief, is that, except in the mining portion, every variable dividend is generally set out and the approximate time of payment; the dividends are not allocated to the financial years of the different companies which not only vary but are altered from time to time as well. As this book includes transactions in the less-known shares, as well as those which are officially quoted on the London Exchange, it may well claim to be a necessary supplement to the Stock Exchange Official Yearbook. It has now been published thirty times and its general arrangement has evidently met with appreciation and approval in the financial world.

NEW NOVELS

Readers of "The Tramp and his Woman" will not need to be reminded that Mrs. Dorothy Charques has a rare sensitiveness to beauty, a subtle gift of observation and an acutely sympathetic insight into human character. These qualities are in evidence even more noticeably in her new and exquisitely told tale, "Between Sleeping and Waking" (Peter Davies). There is a grim and tragic side to the tale—with two of the characters suffering from deranged minds—and in less skilful hands the story would have been without the charm and beauty with which Mrs. Charques invests it.

Mrs. Norah Lofts' new book, "Requiem For Idols" (Methuen, 6s.), is slight in size, but that is because in her clever artistry of portrait painting she eschews all unnecessary embellishments. Her studies of four women, three sisters and a friend, build themselves up naturally page by page to the final climax of the story. Not a word is wasted and by the end all four characters are revealed to us with an intensity of illumination that is almost startling. It is a tragic story but a very fine one.

"The Running of the Deer," by Dan Wicken-den (Dent), is the first novel of a young American author and has already been a great success on the other side of the Atlantic. That success has been fully deserved, as English readers will have every reason to realise once they begin to dip into this story of a few days of family Christmastide life. The understanding of character and the intimate portrayal of it which this tale evinces is truly remarkable in so young a writer. There is wit and humour in it and all the elements that make for rich and lively entertainment.

One must be grateful to the Golden Cockerel Press for giving us the first English translation of "La Venganza del Condor," by the Peruvian writer, V. G. Calderon, in such strikingly attractive form. The English version is called "The White Llama" (translated by Richard Phibbs,

engravings by Clifford Webb, 8s. 6d.). This book has been translated into nearly all European languages and has enjoyed a great reputation on the Continent. It consists of a series of short stories, concerned for the most part with the struggle between the Indians of Peru and their Spanish overlords. The translation has been rendered with a skill that appears to have retained much at least of the original's literary qualities. The stories transport one into what for most of us must be a strangely unfamiliar environment of boas that are pets, of gentle, elegant llamas, of butterflies poisonous as vipers, of horror, cruelty, magic and superstition and something, too, that partakes of sheer beauty. The reader transported into this realm cannot fail to be fascinated.

Mr. Evelyn Waugh gives his fanciful humour full rein in "Scoop" (Chapman & Hall), in which we have a cast of incredibly fantastic creatures invented for the purpose of satirising the methods of modern sensational journalism. It is an impossible tale, but exceedingly amusing; a gay extravaganza that trips along merrily from Mayfair and Fleet-street to Ishmaelia and then back again to London. A brilliant and sparkling display of entertaining nonsense.

A ruthless but handsome gunman who has a tremendous attraction for women is the central figure in Mr. Laurence Meynell's story "The Dandy" (Nicholson & Watson). His first murder goes undetected, but he was not so lucky in his second and third. They lead to his ultimate capture and punishment. One woman does her best to help him to escape and another betrays him. It is an excellent tale full of incident and excitement.

PUBLISHERS' PLANS

John Murray will publish in the autumn the reminiscences of the late Lord Ernle, better known as Rowland Prothero, entitled "Whippingham to Westminster."

Among Allen & Unwin's books to be shortly published is one dealing comprehensively with the life of S. T. Coleridge. This is by Mr. Lawrence Hanson and is based on much new material that has recently come available.

Harrap's, not only have in hand the concluding volume of Mr. Churchill's *Life of Marlborough*, but they will also be bringing out in the early part of the summer a collection of Mr. Churchill's speeches during the last six years. This collection has been made by Mr. Churchill's son, Mr. Randolph Churchill, and it will appear under the title "War in Masquerade."

Duckworth's are about to issue a new edition of Mr. Hilaire Belloc's "Sonnets and Verse." They have also ready a monograph by Mr. Sacheverell Sitwell on "German Baroque Sculpture."

From the Oxford University Press will be coming in the near future a book by Mr. Lionel M. Gelber, a young Canadian student of politics and history. This is called "The Rise of Anglo-American Friendship."

Round the Empire

WOOL AND THE EMPIRE

THE WOOL PAVILION at the Empire Exhibition at Glasgow makes history, because it is the first time in the history of Exhibitions that the fascinating story of the wool industry and the modern diversity of its uses have been epitomised in one exhibit.

Appropriately the building, which covers two thousand square feet of space, is dominated by a golden Merino ram, a symbolic tribute to the animal which more than any other has contributed to the progress of the wool industry. It stands sixty-seven feet above the ground and twenty-seven feet above the roof of the pavilion itself and from the vantage point of the hill in the centre of the Exhibition grounds, in the radiance of powerful floodlights, this symbol of the wool industry is plainly visible.

The principal feature of the interior of the pavilion is the largest frieze of its kind in the world—an eight-foot mural occupying a 120 feet perimeter of the walls. Designed by a group of Dominions' artists and made entirely of wool felts, it contains hundreds of life-sized figures, illustrating the growth of the industry from the dim days of legends. The history of Britain and the Empire is here displayed in such incidents as the Roman occupation, the establishment of their wool "factories," the arrival of the Flemish weavers, the early cloth fairs, the installation of the first Chancellor on the Woolsack, the inventions of Hargreave, Arkwright and Stephenson and the introduction of Merinos into Australia in the days of George III, which marks the beginning of the great wool growing industry of the Dominions.

Below the mural is a series of displays illustrative of the diverse uses of wool, of the originality and charm of modern wool fabrics and also of the more prosaic but vitally important attribute of warmth and health. One of these displays is a moving panorama of life-sized figures, dressed in modern wool clothing, in all walks of life and in all kinds of weather, and as part of the display a gigantic thermometer shows the sudden changes in temperature and climate which must be guarded against by a body healthily clothed in wool.

Dominating the interior of the Pavilion is a revolving world clothed in wool—an illustration of the universality of the commodity, while in the centre of the floor an 18-foot mercator projection of the world shows the trade routes between the wool-producing Dominions and the textile manufacturing countries on whom the Dominions rely to purchase their staple product. Moving ships, homeward bound with wool and outward bound with manufactures, illustrate the importance of the wool industry, not only to the Dominions, but equally to those manufacturing countries who find in them such an excellent market for their exports.

One section of the exhibit is devoted to the display of new fabrics, which represent the application of recent scientific discoveries. For example, there is a selection of unshrinkable woollens, also materials showing the use of unshrinkable yarns

with ordinary yarns, which in combination produce new and beautiful effects.

SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS

The Union of South Africa is very much pre-occupied at the moment with the electoral fight now furiously raging. General Hertzog and Mr. Havinga have just recently concluded their intensive campaign in the Free State, covering some 1,200 miles in the journeys required to address some 14 public meetings. On one occasion recently General Hertzog was hotly questioned by a Nationalist candidate, Mr. Serfontein, on his attitude to a republic.

To the question whether he had not used the word "republic" in order to get the Free State into the old Nationalist Party, General Hertzog replied: "Never."

Mr. Serfontein: Must I then accept that you were never for a republic and are not for a republic to-day?

General Hertzog: I am certainly not for a republic to-day. Only a fool would be.

Asked by Mr. Serfontein whether he had not gone in a deputation to Europe to obtain a republic, General Hertzog said that at that time South Africa was a Crown Colony, and they wanted the Transvaal and Free State as republics. To-day, however, South Africa was a free and independent nation—as free as any nation in the world. (Cheers.) What did they want a republic for to-day? (Uproar and cheers.)

General Smuts has also been busy making speeches. In one of the latest of his speeches he said the election five years ago was not really an election because there was such enthusiasm over peace then. The country was carried, so to speak, by storm, because there was such happiness. It was only now, after five years, that the people would have to express their approval of the step he and General Hertzog had taken. He and General Hertzog had come together for good and the people would have to say whether they were right. "It is a very important decision that you will have to make, but you are not acting in the dark," said General Smuts. "We are not speaking of possibilities. We have behind us a record of five years of political co-operation in this country. You are able to judge for yourselves on the facts of the case. We have met with success in bringing about political co-operation which has surpassed my highest expectations, but we have had only five years in which to work, and nobody can be certain of the future. My hope and prayer for this country is that, for our own sake and for that of our children, we may continue on this path."

"There are natural and deep divisions in this country, more so than in many other countries. We have cleavages which make the task of co-operation very difficult. We have the cleavage of race. We are not homogeneous as in Australia and New Zealand which have people of one race. We have division of language, which is very serious, too, especially when we have such very hard-headed people as the Afrikaans- and English-speaking people in South Africa. Differences of outlook and culture are all very important. We should hate to see South Africa become a purely homogeneous

country in which these differences are wiped out. We should not like to see our English friends give up their language. It would be a calamity for us if we gave up our dear language of Afrikaans, which I hope will become one of the richest chords in the history of South Africa.

"These two hard-headed races have not lived well together. They have fought each other for 100 years and the past has never been far from us. It is always with us and it gets us apart. There are memories which produce pain and bitterness. It was not easy for us to pull forward, but to pull for separation division and strife in this country. Our politics have not been a credit to our young people. We have been fighting each other sometimes racially, and sometimes Afrikaners have been divided among each other. To think of all the lost opportunities and of all the chances we have lost of making South Africa what it should be makes me sad.

"The future of South Africa did not depend on the Boer War. Many of us thought so. I did not. I spoke differently at Vereeniging. The great part of our Boer people thought the Boer War was decisive of the future. What proved fruitful and creative for the future was that act of generosity which set the Transvaal and the Orange Free State on their legs once more. Three years thereafter we had a united South Africa. (Hear, hear.) Evil is barren and sterile and not productive. It is not fertile. The good deed of Campbell-Bannerman has been, in many senses, the cornerstone of South Africa. From that followed self-Government in two Republics and a united South Africa. And in due course came back to us all we had ever lost and much more besides. We know—it needs no argument from me—that South Africa is a united nation from Cape Town to the Limpopo. We are all far freer and have far more power of what is called national sovereignty than ever we had under the two old Republics we lost and buried at Vereeniging. We came together five years ago. We built up a platform to which the people could come together in spite of these differences of race and language and outlook. That was why, concluded General Smuts, the United Party had placed first and foremost the ideal of South Africa as a united nation. He believed that the vast bulk of the people wanted a united nation only.

CANADA'S VISITING TOURISTS

Figures compiled by the Department of Mines and Resources reveal that the tourist traffic of Canada from the United States last year ran to over 18,000,000 as compared with 16,400,000 in 1936. This mass tourist movement reflects the simplicity of travel over the 3,500 mile International Boundary between Canada and the United States. Each year increasing numbers go to the Dominion by motor car, train, boat and by aeroplane, and both Canadian immigration and customs regulations are framed to make the entry of such visitors just as free of "red tape" and restriction as possible. Cars may be brought into Canada under tourist's permit for purposes of health and pleasure for a period up to six months without the payment of duty or deposit. No fees

are charged for car entry permits, and the tourist may continue to drive his motor under his State licence for a generous period.

No passports are required. Bona fide tourists experience no trouble and receive every courtesy from the various officials. They simply report to the Canadian immigration and customs officers at the port of entry, answer the necessary questions, and obtain the requisite permit for the admission of car and outfit.

SASKATCHEWAN HERSELF AGAIN

Here is a high-spirited little note from the agricultural authorities of Saskatchewan, Canada's Prairie Province which last year was very much in the news as being affected by drought. It breathes the spirit of reasoned optimism which is now prevalent. "Spirits were high last week as the mighty drive of seeding got under way. Saskatchewan, known the world over as the kingdom of wheat, was at its best in its old-time glory of mud, moisture, the hustle and bustle at the elevators, the clank of chains, the creaking of old harness, the sploosh-splloosh-splloosh of the horses on muddy roads, the wagons in the towns, the busy stores and streets, the smiles and the handclasps of men and women who had not been feeling "this way" for years. Yes, it is a nice picture to see the farmers of the West with that old-time driving punch and on the march to get their seed and seeding supplies. Some may say that Saskatchewan is flattened, but there is hope, so long as the seed gets into the ground. There is every indication that Saskatchewan will hit the mark this year. The relief seeding programme this spring—described as the greatest in the history of the West—moves onward with increasing activity."

A NEW PROVINCE

The Canadian Minister of Mines and Resources, the Hon. T. A. Crerar, has been telling the Canadian House of Commons that it may shortly have to decide whether it should give representation to the people of the far northern territories. The remarkable development which is taking place over the 1,300,000 square miles of richly-endowed mineral land certainly holds prospect of rapidly-increasing population, and although at the present moment there are only some 1,500 white people there, the opening of successive veins is sending migration up with a rush. The areas, too, are appearing "in the news" more than at any time in the past, thanks to Lord Tweedsmuir's trip to the Arctic Circle, the feats of flying which are now being performed to and from the mining areas, and, indirectly, to the recent Arctic flight of the Russian aviators which drew attention to the possibilities of the Polar regions as a link between Europe and the Far East. The northern area is at present governed by a Territorial Council of experts who know the terrain intimately.

FINLESS SALMON

Thousands of salmon swimming in the waters of the Maritime Provinces of Canada have certain fins missing, and they are worth more money—one dollar each to be precise—because of that.

The premium is paid by the Department of Fisheries to any angler or fisherman who lands a finless catch, and additions are duly made to the data which the Department is gathering on the movements of salmon as a whole. One of the fins is painlessly removed from a number of the fish while in the fingerling stage, and later they are released from specific points to venture out in sea and stream. The spots at which they are recaptured are carefully noted and some indication thereby given of the migratory course of their fellows.

MINING AND THE FARMER

Superficially it seems a far cry from mining to agriculture, but the Spring operations now under way on Canadian farms illustrate once again the close association between the two. The fertilisers, upon which the luxuriance of the various crops so largely depend, contain many ingredients derived from minerals—sulphate of ammonia, ammonium phosphate, superphosphate, calcium cyanamide, phosphoric acid, and potash, to name but a few. Other minerals include magnesium, sulphur, boron, copper, manganese, iodine, zinc and iron. There are quite a number of plants in Canada devoted entirely to the production of these mineral fertilisers, the largest cyanamide plant in the world being situated, indeed, at Niagara Falls. During the last "fertiliser year" the Canadian output reached 579,196 short tons, an increase of 33 per cent. over the preceding year. Of this total, 229,888 tons were mixed fertilisers; 162,509 tons calcium cyanamide; 79,556 tons sulphate of ammonia; 66,967 tons superphosphate, and 32,151 tons ammonium phosphate.

RECRUITS FOR RHODESIA

More than forty young men have left this country this year to join the British South Africa Police—one of the most famous police forces in the world. In a few days' time they will be joined by twenty-four other young men, anxious for a life of adventure in Africa, including a chauffeur, gardener, a surveyor, a bank clerk, a gas man and a stable hand. Last year 37 men left this country to join the force whose task it is to police Southern Rhodesia. The mounted branch, on horse or motor cycle, patrol the hinterlands and native reserves of the Colony and form the first line of the country's military defence scheme. The foot branch undertakes the ordinary police work in the larger towns. The great Cecil Rhodes was responsible for the birth of the B.S.A.P. when he ordered the recruiting of an armed force to escort the pioneer column that crossed the Limpopo river in 1890 and entered what is now Southern Rhodesia. This hazardous enterprise, under the guidance of the great hunter Selous, was undertaken without the firing of a shot.

The style "British South Africa Police" is somewhat misleading as the force serves only in Southern Rhodesia. Once the Mashonaland Mounted Police it became the British South Africa Company's Police when the "Chartered" Company took over the administration of both Mashonaland and Matabeleland, now the two

provinces of the self-governing Colony of Southern Rhodesia. In 1906 the word "Company" was dropped.

INDIAN ASSEMBLY OBJECTIONS TO UNION JACK

At question time recently in the Indian Legislative Assembly at Delhi, a member asked why the Union Jack had been hoisted over the building. Sir Zafrullah Khan, Member for Labour and Commerce, replied: "It has been a long-standing practice to hoist the Union Jack on the Council House when the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly are sitting. The practice follows that in the Houses of Parliament and is governed by no specific rule."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it permissible for any member of the Assembly to remove that flag from there?

Sir M. Zafrullah Khan: No, sir.

Prof. Ranga: Why not?

Sir M. Zafrullah Khan: The members do not own the House. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the President kindly examine the matter and consult the Speaker of the House of Commons whether such flags can be flown with the Speaker's consent or knowledge? I merely want to know the Parliamentary practice and I should like to ask why we should have an emblem of slavery over our head while we are fighting the battle of freedom here.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May we know your answer, sir?

The President: Members cannot put any questions to me. (Laughter.)

INDIAN FEDERATION PROSPECTS

Discussing the further lease of life recently granted to the Indian Central Legislative Assembly the *Statesman* says that this certainly means that the General Election, eagerly looked forward to in certain quarters, is further postponed. "Many motives are being read into the extension just granted; but a simple explanation seems possible. There has been an important recent announcement of Government's adherence to the policy of Federation. Discussions with the Indian States are still going on. The Centre has seen a few changes already, but the major change involving the executive and the legislature obviously cannot take place until all the preliminaries have been settled. There is a reasonable expectation that the transition will not be greatly delayed. A General Election during the next few months would not have seriously affected the complexion of the Assembly nor would it, we suppose, have made it a more efficient organ as British India's Central Lower House. The electoral machinery everywhere has hardly yet recovered from last year's strain. We do not imagine that electorates will quarrel with the Government decision."

BIHAR AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

The Bihar Assembly last month adopted an amended resolution urging the need for preparing for national defence and advocating the establishment of institutions where the youth of the Province

could be given the requisite military training. The resolution originally demanded a national militia but Government spokesmen who sympathised with its spirit, suggested that this would be beyond the powers of the Provincial Government. They, however, detailed the steps already taken to meet the desire for military training, and the Minister-in-charge declared that such training for Indians would be in the best interests of the Empire itself.

The mover, Mr. Hargovind Misra, urged that necessary steps be taken to organise a national militia for the province on the lines of the Indian Territorial Force and maintain a trained volunteer corps as a reserve force for mobilisation in times of emergency, consisting of five hundred cadets from each district, the military training, uniform, equipments and allowances for the training period to be provided by the provincial Government. He further wanted a committee of experts to be appointed to frame rules and work out the details.

Congress and other speakers having taken part in the discussion, Dr. Syed Mahmud, Education Minister, then replied to the debate. He referred to the Irwin-Gandhi conversations in this connection and said that it was not correct to say that even a mention of military training or the formation of a militia was antagonistic to the creed of non-violence. Mr. Gandhi had himself stated recently that non-violence could only be practised by strong and courageous people, not by cowards and weaklings. Non-violence required greater strength than violence did. The Government supported the resolution so far as its spirit was concerned, although opinions might differ regarding the procedure. The Congress had made known its views in this matter frequently. Cultivation of physical strength did not conflict with the creed of non-violence. The Congress Government of Bihar had taken up the question of military training in all seriousness. Provision had been made in the budget for military schools and scholarships, and steps were being taken to establish a military training school as previously announced. A booklet had been prepared on military science, which would be distributed shortly. Military training for Indians, he said, would be in the best interests of the British Empire itself. The resolution would be forwarded to the Government of India and he hoped it would receive due consideration.

There should be unanimity of opinion and enthusiastic support from all castes and communities regarding the defence problem. There, however, remained the question of finance, but if the Government of India lent them their support it would be solved easily. The British had to be "driven out of the country at any cost" and Indians had to rely on their own strength, irrespective of what happened to the country after the British had left it. To be strong would enhance the self-respect of the Congress, for otherwise the British might say "These people want us to go but are powerless to defend themselves." By establishing a military school in Bihar the Province could set an example to the rest of India, that it had taken a lead in advancing the national cause.

HIMALAYAN CLIMBS

Mr. Ernest Marklew, Honorary Equipment Officer of the Himalayan Club is making this month his third attempt to climb the eastern peak of The Twins, the summit of which is nearly 23,000 feet above sea level. The Twins massif is situated north-east of Kanchenjunga and is linked to it by the North Col.

This year's expedition began a week later than that of the previous year. The party was to have assembled at Gangtok on May 8 and intended to leave the next morning following the Lachen Tiesta Valley and Zemu Glacier route.

The attacking party consists of Mr. Marklew as leader. Aungdawa (No. 27), a Shirpa, who accompanied Mr. Marklew on his expedition last year, as middleman, and another man by the name of Aungdawa, also a Shirpa, who was with Mr. Spencer Chapman on Chumalhari, as No. 3. It was the intention to establish two camps above the base camp, one on the Twins Glacier—due south of the mountain known as the Sugarloaf—at about 19,300 feet and the other at the upper or western end of the Snowfield, due east of the objective, at about 19,700 feet. "The Glacier between the Twins Glacier camp and Snowfield camp is so steep and broken up into giant ice pinnacles," said Mr. Marklew to an interviewer before the expedition started, "that the first 200 feet will take us at least four hours to negotiate; but this accomplished, and with two days to spare, the summit will be within striking distance." He hoped to reach the summit on May 19.

SLAVERY ON ASSAM BORDER

According to a New Delhi correspondent of the Indian Associated Press, steady progress is being made with the suppression of slavery in the unadministered territory of the Balipara Frontier Tract, Assam. The Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, was recently successful in effecting by negotiation the release of a number of slaves captured in certain raids committed by the Mijis on the Monbas of But and Konia. During the rains in 1937, Nakhu villagers raided Konia and seized eight persons. The cause of the raid was said to be an old standing complaint of "sickness carrying." Thirty persons, men, women and children, were captured and taken away. The prisoners captured from Konia were sold in some Miji villages, a three days march north of Nakhu, but they all managed to escape and remained in hiding for fear of being recaptured. Of the 30 persons captured by Karangania, Thulo, etc., 10 were ransomed by the Dzongpon of Birangdzong on the promise of payment of 15 different articles in accordance with local custom. Ten others escaped, while the remaining 10 were kept in captivity in different villages in the hills.

The headmen of these villages were ordered to release their prisoners but refused to do so. On being threatened, however, by the Political Officer that he would return and cause trouble, they agreed to release the prisoners within one week, and it has now been ascertained that eight out of the 10 prisoners have been returned and that the other two have escaped.

Your Investments

THE FRANC—AND AFTER

SO accustomed has the British investing public become to French currency scares that the latest franc developments have hardly excited the interest they deserve. The franc has followed a downward course for so long that we have yet to see the effect of a return of confidence in France which has begun with a substantial repatriation of funds in the first few days of the franc's new value. If all French money in London were to return to Paris, the immediate effect would be a weakening of British Government stocks, which have long been favoured by French nationals as a haven for "funk money." This has already been seen in easier prices for Consol $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., Local 3 per cent. Loans, and War Loan. But another effect is to emphasise "cheap money" in the London Market. A smaller supply of Treasury Bills is already in issue because the British Exchange fund has recovered funds tied up in franc exchange equalisation. This in turn has the effect of strengthening the demand for short-dated Government issues, an influence which sooner or later is reflected in better prices also for the long-dated stocks. Thus, franc stabilisation will mean a healthier gilt-edged market in the long run. Failure of the new £7,000,000 Australian $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. issue dated 1952-56 to secure subscription is not likely to depress the market, for the stock will be gradually absorbed for Trustee investment, yielding as it does about £3 17s. per cent. to redemption.

CREDIT EXPANSION

But there is another side to this exchange manipulation. The franc is undervalued in relation to sterling unless prices in France respond to a level for the franc of something like 179 to the £. Similarly, the dollar looks undervalued against the £. Yet the idea of a dearer franc or a dearer dollar would be highly unpalatable to France and to U.S.A. The only remedy is a cheaper £. Our Defence expenditure, which appears likely to reach £2,000,000,000 in the next five years, will achieve the effect of lessening the £'s value, and this should be reflected by dearer prices for commodities and also for ordinary stocks and shares. As for the trade outlook, we cannot for ever enjoy a lone prosperity and, if Britain can resist depression until U.S.A. is once more fulfilling her part as consumer then present prices for "equities" will prove much too low. In other words, any sound industrial ordinary stock should pay as an investment "lock-up."

AIRCRAFT SHARES AGAIN

Since yields on Aircraft issues were last mentioned in these notes capital values have been adjusted to a slightly more reasonable level. But the whole of the established producers' shares still look undervalued in view of the fact that the companies have yet to reach a peak of production and profits, and that the outlook for the aircraft

industry can hardly be other than "bullish" for the next decade. Yields of over 7 per cent. less tax on Fairey Aviation 10s. shares at 25s. 6d. and Hawker-Siddeley 5s. shares at 29s. 9d. give the industry a speculative appearance which British Government orders alone for the next few years render unjustified.

ODHAMS PRESS

It is not surprising to find a small reduction in the profits of Odhams Press at £340,192 against £351,994, the dividend being reduced from 15 per cent. to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Actually the company's publications and miscellaneous activities enjoyed good progress, but newspaper costs have risen enormously, and the company will reap the benefit of a conservative policy. Nearly 23 per cent. was earned on the 4s. ordinary shares, which do not look overvalued at 7s.

BEECHAMS PILLS BONUS

There seems no end to the prosperity of Beechams Pills, which each year increases popularity of the well-known products of the group which includes Veno Drug Co. Net profits for the year just ended were £445,982, against £429,800, and the directors are enabled to distribute a 100 per cent. capital bonus in the form of one new £1 5 per cent. redeemable preference share for each four 5s. deferred shares held. This is in addition to raising the dividend rate for the year from 60 per cent. to 85 per cent. The profit of £600,908 created a new record for the company, and naturally the deferred shares have been a strong market at over £3. They are now just under this level ex dividend and, though bonuses on this scale cannot be expected every year, the shares must still be reckoned to have considerable scope.

EVER READY YIELD

The decision of the directors of Ever Ready (Great Britain), the battery and electrical accessory manufacturers, to omit the 10 per cent. bonus and pay only the 35 per cent. dividend came as a surprise in view of the profit expansion from £518,375 to £525,346, but £146,721 goes to reserves and the company's position has been strengthened. The 5s. units are priced at 23s. to yield over $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which is attractive in view of the company's steady record.

TOBACCOS

It was pointed out a week ago in these columns that the Chancellor was looking to Beer and Tobacco to provide him with additional revenue this year though there is no extra tax on these "luxuries." Brewery and tobacco stocks and shares have merely remained steady since the Budget and a gradual upward trend seems justified if the Chancellor's revenue estimates are correct. Tax-free yield of 4 per cent. on British-American tobacco is the highest in the list but Imperial tobacco, one of the soundest industrial shares in the world, returns £3 13s. net or £4 18s. per cent. less tax. Carreras "B" at 19s. 3d. is the only reasonably small-priced share in the list and the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. return is not unattractive. But for capital appreciation and income at the same time, British-American offer remarkable scope.

Letters to the Editor

GERMANY AND SPAIN

Sir,—I agree with your correspondent, Mr. Ernest C. Yaldwyn, that neither Germany nor any other country can obtain "lasting domination" over the Iberian Peninsula. But domination does not have to be permanent to be dangerous to British interests.

Few will deny that Germany could dominate the present war-wrecked Spain for a number of years—for sufficient time to use the Pyrenean borders as bases for aerial attack upon France, and the Basque ports as submarine bases to bottle up British shipping. And these are the dangers which we all must recognise.

Mr. Yaldwyn may be right when he says that Germany is not in possession of the Basque ports and the general control of Spanish industry. Nevertheless, it would be interesting to know why a German plebiscite ship had to visit the Basque country, and recorded the votes of 500 German families resident there. Since these families had not been in the Basque country before the war, it would be interesting to know for what purposes they had made the journey. Perhaps Mr. Yaldwyn could provide an explanation.

The point about Mr. Yaldwyn's letter which is most alarming to me is that a British subject should be so anxious to hide from the public the obvious dangers which will face this country if Franco wins.

T. FRANCES.

92, Westbourne Park-road,
London, W.2.

WHAT IS ZAMBRENE?

Sir,—Can any of your readers throw any light on the meaning of the word "Zambrene"? It occurs in a late 18th century MS. in a context suggesting that it was the name of some kind of material, but it is to be found neither in Webster nor in the Oxford English Dictionary.

STUDENT.

METHEGLIN: A POTENT DRINK

Sir,—I notice a reference to Metheglin in your number of April 30. I was talking to a Berkshire farmer who told me that in his youth his mother regularly brewed Metheglin from honeycombs. It was a clear and potent liquid. The family eventually gave it up for beer, but some jars of three-year-old Metheglin remained. One afternoon during the apple picking, the beer given to the pickers was mixed half and half with Metheglin and the

results were disastrous. Some of them nearly fell off their ladders and the rate of picking fell off to such an extent that it had to be knocked off for the rest of the day.

Finchley-road, N.W.

C. R. RATHBONE.

1921 GERMAN WINES

Sir,—There has been a good deal of correspondence about the sale of 1921 German wines at Christie's.

It is suggested that they are now past their best and a great many of them undoubtedly are, but the finest wines of this marvellous year are likely to last for many more years.

Some of the 1921 wines were bottled too soon and disappointed by fermenting in the bottle, but those which were kept long enough in the wood promised to rival the greatest vintages within human memory.

WINE LOVER.

COMPANY MEETING

PHILIP HILL and PARTNERS, LTD.

THE sixth annual general meeting of Philip Hill and Partners, Ltd., was held on the 4th inst. in London.

Mr. Philip E. Hill (chairman and managing director), who presided, said the net profit amounted to £502,456, which in a difficult year could only be regarded as satisfactory. The directors had adopted a conservative dividend policy by recommending a final dividend of 12½ per cent., making with the interim dividend a total of 25 per cent. for the year. The balance they recommended should be utilised in increasing the dividend equalisation account by £50,000, by placing £50,000 to reserve for taxation account, and by increasing the carry-forward to £48,876—an increase of nearly £17,000. The dividend equalisation account now amounted to £200,000, and the general reserve account stood at £1,215,434. Having regard to these reserves, he thought shareholders would agree that the balance sheet showed an exceptionally sound position. The quoted securities held by the Company at March 31 last, figured in the balance sheet at £3,356,314, while the market value of those investments and those held by their wholly owned subsidiaries at the date of the balance sheet exceeded the aggregate book value by over £200,000. Owing to acute depression on the London Stock Exchange during March, security values with very few exceptions had been seriously depreciated—in many cases prices ruling had borne little relation to intrinsic merits and earning capacity. In view of the improvement in prices which had occurred since the end of the Company's financial year he would point out that the surplus represented by the aggregate or market value of the Company's securities as compared with the book value had by now increased to over £370,000.

As would be seen by the classification of the Company's investments shown in the report, the board were pursuing a policy of spreading interests over a wide field of industrial activity. While owing to general conditions the making of satisfactory public issues had been very difficult, the Company had been instrumental during the past year in raising over £8,000,000, a figure which, under the circumstances, was satisfactory.

For accountancy reasons, it had been decided that the Company's financial year should in the future end on June 30, so that the next accounts would cover a period of about fifteen months.

The report was unanimously adopted, and the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff.

THE NATIONAL Review

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Episodes of the Month

Who Keepeth His Goods in Peace?

COLONEL SIR HERBERT BRYAN, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Italian and Other Intervention in Spain

COMMENDATORE LUIGI VILLARI

America's Two Voices

ANGLO-AMERICAN

General Election in South Africa

VERNON A. BARBER

The Plot That Failed

AUGUR

Waste Not, Want Not

T. KERR RITCHIE

Mr. Chamberlain's Speech

Two Great School Matches

HON. ROBERT LYTTELTON

May Day in the 'Eighties

MISS FLORA THOMPSON

Queen Victoria's Coronation

MISS A. E. HEWETT

Poem: Come Child

HOWARD NEWBY

About Fruit-Growing

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